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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/769,107	01/24/2001	Vincent P. Sandansayaka	AM-100182 01	4495
25291	7590	06/22/2005	EXAMINER	
			COVINGTON, RAYMOND K	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1625		

DATE MAILED: 06/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/769,107	SANDANAYAKA ET AL.
	Examiner Raymond Covington	Art Unit 1625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14,29-31,33-39 and 45-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-14,29-31,33-39 and 45-53 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-14, 29-31, 33-39 and 45-53 are currently pending in the instant application. Claims 15-28, 32 and 40-44 have been canceled.

The previous representative and previous SPE on the case are no longer available. There is no clear record indicating treatment of the 102 and 103 rejections in the record. Neither is there a clear affirmation of the elected invention and examined scope.

Therefore, the following restriction is remade to clarify the scope of the examination and election.

Accordingly, a restriction requirement is set forth herein below.

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I Claims 1-14, 29-31, 33-39 are drawn to a method of preparing alpha-sulfonyl derivatives of formula V using a carbonyl intermediate of formula IV. classified in class 546, subclass 216, for example.

II Claims 45-46, drawn to compounds of the formula IX, classified in class 540, subclass 470, for example.

III Claims 48-49, drawn to a method of inhibiting pathological changes mediated by TNF-alpha converting enzymes TACE, classified in class

514, subclass 213, for example.

IV Claims 50-53 are drawn to a method of inhibiting pathological changes mediated by metalloproteinases, classified in class 514, subclass 330, for example.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP j 806.05(9)). In the instant case the products of groups I and II can be made by other materially different processes.

Inventions I, III and IV are related as process of making and process of using the product. The use as claimed cannot be practiced with a materially different product. Since the product is not allowable, restriction is proper between said method of making and method of using. The product claim will be examined along with the elected invention (MPEP j 806.05(i)).

Inventions VII, VIII and IX, X are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with

another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP j 806.05(h)). In the instant case the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product such as non-heterocyclic derivatives.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the ad as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for any one Group is not required for any other Group, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Claims 1-52 are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising, for example, O-heterocyclic derivatives classified in 549/200+, S-heterocyclic derivatives classified in 549/1+, polycyclic thiomorpholine derivatives classified in 544/60+, polycyclic morpholine derivatives classified in 544/101+, diazine derivatives classified in 544/224+, thiodiazine derivatives classified in 544/8+, benzothiazine classified in 544/49+, isoquinoline derivatives classified

in 546/139+, tropane derivatives classified in 546/124+, oxazole derivatives classified in 548/240+, thiodiazole derivatives classified in 548/125+, 568/38+, 568/630+, and various other species too numerous to recite. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons: the compounds differ materially in structure and element so much so as to be patentably distinct. In addition, a reference, which anticipates one group, may not even render obvious the other. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the ad as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species, even though this requirement is traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Claim 47 is a linking claims drawn to a pharmaceutical composition of formula IX and will be searched with the elected invention.

No claim is allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raymond Covington whose telephone number is (571) 272-0681. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, C. Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-0562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


RKC

Raymond Covington
Examiner
Art Unit 1625


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PRIMARY EXAMINER, Art. 1625
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